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ABSTRACT

Of primary concern in studying the educational and informational needs of residents of the Southeast Central Area of the Los Angeles Community College District was determining the area's demographic and historical characteristics. The data gathering strategies involved locating available information on the area for background to community issues, concerns, and needs; conducting interviews with persons in service capacities from both within and outside the area; and directly observing community service agency activities. The semi-structured interviews with community informants elicited information on social change and social stability in the area, on significant groups, educational and informational needs, and barriers and access points for New Dimensions programs. The findings indicated that the area was experiencing a rapid population shift in terms of cultural, age, and economic characteristics. Long-term, older, more affluent Anglo residents were becoming an increasingly smaller cohort; while, younger, less well-off, and less well-trained Latino families were becoming the majority group. The population shift suggested a number of educational services: area-wide activities which foster community sense and communication and also establish a community college presence, diverse programming with bilingual capacity, and introduction of educational counselors to the area. (TR)

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EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, ACCESS, AND BARRIERS OF RESIDENTS IN SOUTHEAST CENTRAL LOS ANGELES:

A PHASE II NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR NEW DIMENSIONS

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Los Angeles Community Colleges

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JC 780 197

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, ACCESS, AND BARRIERS OF RESIDENTS IN SOUTHEAST CENTRAL LOS ANGELES:

A PHASE II NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR NEW DIMENSIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purposes of this Study

This is the final report of a study about the educational and informational needs of the Southeast Central Area (SCA) of the Los Angeles Community College District. The area is of interest because previous studies have shown it to have lower rates of participation in community colleges than other areas within the district. The 1975 Geosystems Study and a 1976 study of adult participation rates in selected areas of the LACCD both identified the SCA as one of strikingly low enrollments in Los Angeles Community Colleges. The "New Students, New Services" 1977 report pointed to the SCA as one of two areas within the district which the Office for New Dimensions might productively examine and begin to program for unmet educational and informational needs of residents.

The SCA is one which, effectively, falls outside the 3 - 5 mile catchment radius of the district's three nearest colleges: East, Trade-Technical, and Southwest. The area has a population of more than a quarter of a million persons. It includes the following small cities and identifiable areas: Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Florence, Graham, Huntington Park, Maywood, South Gate, Walnut Park, and Eastern Watts.

Of first concern to the study was a determination of the demographic and historical characteristics of the area: What groups comprise the poulation, and what cultural and social traditions function in the area? Within this established context, central questions were posed regarding key concerns and issues, educational and informational needs, barriers to addressing needs, and potential points of contact (access points) for linking residents with programs designed to address needs. A practical interest of this study has been to identify actors -- both persons and resource institutions -- who might provide the Office for New Dimensions with advice, access, or technical/material assistance in future programming efforts in the area.

B. Methodology

Two strategies of information gathering were employed in the study. First, a search was conducted to locate available information on the area; the intention was to use

such information both as background on the area and to sensitize the investigation to issues, concerns, and needs. Second, a number of interviews were conducted with key informants from within the area as well as from outside of it. In addition to these means, the investigator also engaged in direct observation of a number of community service agency activities such as local health centers, congregate meal programs for senior citizens, community centers, and parks.

A number of sources were contacted in order to locate available information or existing studies about the area. In addition to governmental agencies (from the federal to the municipal levels), contact was also made with university research units and with major private human service umbrella agencies. Included in the kinds of information sought were: demographic descriptions and projections; community or area planning documents; indicators of social and economic condition; and previous needs assessments.

The second method of information gathering was by means of semi-structured interviews with key informants in the community. An initial list of informants was compiled using the Community Resources Information Bank (CRIB) of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services. Selected human service agencies were contacted and interviews were conducted with agency personnel familiar with the SCA (or portions of it). These interviews yielded a number of other interview contacts. In all, more than fifty persons were interviewed.

The choice to conduct interviews with persons in service capacities assumes that such persons will know their clients' life situations as well as the community environment and cultural/historical and economic contexts of their clients. Care was taken in the selection of interviewees to insure that the "picture" would be focused and balanced. The interviewees represented a broad range of experience in the SCA; typical of those interviewed were city councilmen, health and education personnel, educators, community workers, senior citizen advocates, ministers, and persons politically aware and active in the Latino community within the SCA.

The semi-structured interviews with community informants were essentially designed to elicit responses to the following issues:

- o Social change and social stability in the area:
  What the present social and economic condition of the SCA is; what changes had occurred; what was the historical context of changes and what were the key concerns and issues in the present context.

- o Social change and stability in local communities:
  Because the SCA is composed of nearly a dozen identifiable places, respondents were asked to provide the same kind of present situation - historical context information as that sought about the area as a whole, but for each local sub-area or community with which they were most familiar.

- o Significant groups:
  What the major population groups in the SCA are; what their background and current situation is; what their key concerns and issues are.

- o Educational and informational needs:
  What the particular needs of the area are; which of the significant groups within areas might be served by what educational and/or informational programs.

- o Barriers and access points:
  What factors or significant groups impede successful programming; what factors or groups might facilitate successful efforts.

This approach has provided the researcher with a comprehensive overview of the SCA. Both data collection and interview responses have shaped and modified general impressions, and form the basis for drawing the conclusions presented in this report.

II. STUDY CONCLUSIONS

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS
Area in General	A. The Area Is in Transition The SCA is experiencing a rapid shift in the cultural, age, and economic characteristics of its population. Long-term, older, and more affluent Anglo residents are and will continue to be an increasingly smaller cohort in the area. Younger, less well off and well trained Latino families, from	Recognition of Issues; Problems of Transition

a wide array of national backgrounds have become the majority group in the area; this majority is expected to increase. Lower-income status and both unemployment and underemployment are on the rise in the area. Although political power is still in the hands of older Anglo residents, this situation will change in ways not presently predictable.

Area in General

B. The Area Is Disregarded

Attention by Educational Institutions; Educational Information

The SCA falls between all the cracks. The transition which is taking place is largely unrecognized outside the SCA. Perceptions of the area by persons in agencies not in the area (governmental and other human service providers) are based on the 1970 census and assumptions that follow from these data. There has been little attention or interest from institutions of higher education. There were clear indications from diverse sources that residents of the area perceive themselves as underserved by educational systems other than the locally based adult schools. There is no communal identification with any institution of higher education (like that of westside residents with UCLA Extension or residents of East Los Angeles with East Los Angeles College).

Area in General; Latinos and Anglo Seniors

C. There Are Needs, Barriers, and Access Points

Area-wide Educational Programs; Potential Latino Groups; Potential Groups of Anglo Seniors

1. Needs

A number of general and specific educational and informational needs with attendant barriers and access points were discerned. The needs are those of present potential learners (Latinos and senior) who must certainly be considered non-traditional and underserved; the needs are also those of the suddenly burgeoning elementary and secondary school population who will be making important educational choices for the next two decades. These needs are of three sorts: needs of the Southeast Central Area as an underserved area; needs of Latino potential learners in the area; and needs of senior potential learners in the area. In brief, these needs are as follows:

For the Southeast Central Area

- Area-wide activities which foster communication and a sense of community among residents of diverse backgrounds.
- Activities within the area, both area-wide and within specific communities, which establish a community college "presence".

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS
	For Latino Potential Learners	
Latinos	o Diverse programming, with bilingual capacity, to include the subject areas of language and basic skills, parent education, and health, consumer, legal, and citizenship/political education.	Survival, Acculturation, and Advancement
Latinos	o Educational information to residents and educational counselors in the area, including that on career choice making and skills assessment, as well as on a full range of learning options.	Information, Counseling, and Guidance
	For Senior Potential Learners	
Anglo Seniors	o Educational programming in the areas of health, consumerism, and and community action.	Health, Consumer and Community Action Educational Programs
Anglo Seniors	o The involvement of seniors in the planning and implementation of programs	

2. Barriers

A number of barriers exist in the Southeast Central Area which make meeting these needs problematical at present; these barriers should be accounted for in any programming efforts:

- o Preoccupation with "getting by": "getting by" includes matters of economic survival as well as the rigors of acculturation and raising families.
- o Lack of community identity: the traditional "community" of the area has been fragmented by differences between generations and cultures; this fragmentation is underscored by the relative isolation of the area from its neighboring areas and, indeed, from the rest of Los Angeles.
- o Lack of college presence: there is no postsecondary education "presence" in the area except for the adult schools; the reliable and responsible existence of resources needs to be established.

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS

3. Access

A number of access points were identified. Perhaps the most significant of these is the area's own perceived need for educational resources.

Although there were few indications of interagency coordination, there are a great number of services in the area. Many of those interviewed indicated that they (and/or the agencies with which they were affiliated) would be interested in providing assistance of one sort or another to any thoughtful attempt to supply needed educational or informational services to the area.

Access to seniors in the SCA appears quite available. Organizations and services for senior citizens abound in the area. In addition, a number of organizations and key individuals coordinate the provision of information to seniors.

Area in General; Latinos in Particular

A number of institutions -- for instance, Trade-Technical Satellite Campus, churches in the area, and the regional health center -- are concerned about and attempt to program for the Latino population in the SCA. However, this population is not culturally cohesive, and, as yet, no clear social or political organization has emerged through which contact might be established. Access is, therefore, available only through key individuals or services which have established trust with groups in this population.

Need to Coordinate Activities to Promote Access

The district has the beginnings of a "presence" in the area through Trade-Technical's Satellite Campus in Huntington Park. On the other hand, both East Los Angeles College and Southwest College appear to need refurbished images in the SCA if they are to make an impact there.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The whole of the Southeast Central Area and the local communities within it are undergoing change and social and economic stress and are redefining their identities. Concentration -- of resources, activities, and attention -- is the key to addressing the considerable educational and informational needs of the area. In the overall and specific recommendations which follow, it is the principle of multi-faceted concentration that links them together.

Area in General

The overall recommendation of this report is that the Southeast Central Area be designated as a New Dimensions development area. The SCA provides a very tangible context for the design and delivery of services and programs which embody the New Dimensions mission. The area is needful: it offers a focus for the meaningful operationalization of the concepts of innovation and non-traditional learning.

The SCA as a New Dimensions Development Area

Area in General

The kind of involvement that is recommended would provide New Dimensions with an opportunity to observe program ideas in action under the most rigorous of field conditions. Many program ideas which are current or have been proposed could be implemented and observed in the SCA. For example, an Educational Information Center site, linking informational presentations to local organizations with more widely dispersed informational packages within the area, could be developed and adapted for more intensive use by residents. Such a program could provide residents with information on courses or programs relevant to their life situations, the availability of and process of seeking academic credit for life experiences, and on locating and securing learning-supportive services.

Educational Information Center Site and Functions

Area in General

Action on this recommendation might bear other fruits. The SCA should soon come to be more generally recognized as one with consequential needs. As such, it will become increasingly attractive to outside funding agencies. In this event, the institution with the best understanding of the area and with the most convincing demonstration of previous experience, activity, and acceptance in the area will be the one in the most logical position to conduct externally supported programming in the area.

Concentration of Resource Development Efforts

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS

Five more specific recommendations flow from this general recommendation:

A. Consortial Approach

Other Educational Institutions

New Dimensions' most important function in the SCA might be as a broker between the area and educational resources. Aside from the direct programming (see recommendations C. and D.), New Dimensions could carry out this role in three ways: 1) by clearly portraying the needs of the SCA to other institutions and encouraging their focused activity in the area; 2) by providing the kind of informational services in the area that will be relevant to potential learners and that will couple them effectively with appropriate resources; and 3) by continuing to assess educational needs in the area and supplying this program-relevant information to the service providing institutions.

Educational Brokering, Particularly Among LACCD Colleges

LACCD

It seems particularly important that the district's nearby campuses be encouraged to participate in this consortial approach to the area. East Los Angeles College and Southwest are not presently factors in the area. Trade-Technical's experience with its Satellite Campus in Huntington Park could offer a model for educational engagement in the area. Satellite campuses are not the only possibility; well placed and coordinated outreach courses might prove even more effective.

B. Community Advising Board

Area in General; Specific Community Representation

If contact is to be maintained with the SCA, and certainly, if any programs are to be offered there, an organized link to the area should be established. An advisory body in the area could provide greater access and exposure to program efforts, but, more importantly, could provide on-going insight to the issues and needs of the area and to strategies by which these might be addressed.

New Dimensions Planning; Stimulation of Community Input

C. Community Service Events

Area in General; Anglo Seniors and Latino Involvement

It would be useful to provide a forum or display-case for the various cultures in the area and in local communities. If such multi-cultural activities are planned, attention should be given to providing for events and attractions for older persons. The siting of such events is also an important consideration. The addition of a health component

Communication; Fostering Community Service Events

featuring health screening and information, and the possibility of a "moveable feast" might be considered appropriate and complementary to such events.

D. Educational Programming

Latinos and Anglo Seniors

Many of the specific educational/informational needs discerned by this study were in the area of survival and self-sufficiency. The kinds of learning these needs call for will require the design of quite unique and non-traditional courses and programs. Moreover, the implementation of such learning activities will require a full complement of support services. Such services should involve not only outreach and guidance for pre-enrollment, but also a capacity to establish, through some sort of testing mechanism, the point at which the learner should begin in an open-entry system. New Dimensions should take the lead in the development of these innovative learning systems and flexible support services.

Design of Non-Traditional Learning Experiences

Full Range of Support Services

Flexible Delivery Strategies

E. Assistance in Service Integration Efforts

Area Human Services Institutions

To whatever degree possible, New Dimensions should foster the coordinated delivery of human services to the area. To a certain extent this can be accomplished by drawing attention to the needs of the area through dissemination of on-going needs assessment information. Beyond this, New Dimensions does have a demonstrated capacity to provide training to human service personnel. Such training -- perhaps in the form of an executive planning studio or following the form of other in-service training programs -- could be offered on a contract basis to interested providers in the area.

Cooperation with Technical Assistance to Area Service Providers

IV. FINDINGS

A. The Southeast Central Area

1. Background: Demographic Change, Context, and Consequences

Older Anglo Residents

Over the past 5 to 7 years the SCA has undergone a massive and rapid transition in the cultural, age, and economic characteristics of its population. Seven years ago a basically homogenous, older, middle-income Anglo majority lived in and controlled the cities of the SCA.

Diverse Latino Cultures

Today, although Anglos still retain all major political offices in the area, the majority group is Latino. This group is not homogenous, coming as it does from a wide range of national backgrounds: Chicano, Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, and Central and South American. It is young, predominantly composed of young families with young children, and it is distinctly less affluent than the previous majority group.

Demographic Transition

Although the transition is accepted as a fact of life in the SCA, it is not widely recognized outside the area. Outside the SCA, the 1970 census and population projections based on these data continue to shape perceptions about the area. A comparison of the results of a special census done in November, 1976 by the U. S. Bureau of the Census for Huntington Park with the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, January 1976 projections of Huntington Park's population illustrates the current unreliability of the 1970 census and projections based on it.

Huntington Park

Source	Population
1970 Census	33,744
L. A. County 1976 Projections	32,327 (-1,417)
1976 Special Census	37,851 (+4,107)
Total Discrepancy between Actual and Projected	5,524

The special census reveals not only a large and unanticipated increase in population, but also a change in the Spanish-surnamed population proportion from 36 percent in 1970 to 56.4 percent in 1976. Reports from throughout the area indicate that the shift to a Latino majority and the increase in population which is seen in Huntington Park characterize the changes which have occurred everywhere in the SCA*.

* Dr. Thomas, Director of New Dimensions, reports that South Gate is considering contracting a special census because city officials estimate that actual population may be half again as great as projections indicate.

Low-Income Persons

Low-income conditions appear to be a significant factor in the life of the area. Fixed income poverty, public assistance rates, unemployment and underemployment are all high in the area. Supervisor Schabarum lists Huntington Park and South Gate as areas of the highest rate of senior citizens in poverty within his district. As Table I indicates, AFDC recipiency in some of the cities in the area was as high as 25 percent of the population. July 1977 figures illustrate a higher rate of unemployment in the area than in Los Angeles County, as shown in Table II. A less measurable phenomenon, underemployment, appears to be two to three times more prevalent than unemployment, a conclusion supported by both the L. A. County data and by the reports of a number of interview respondents.

Table I

AFDC Assistance in the Southeast Central Area

City or Place	1970 Census Population	March 1976 AFDC Recipients	Percentage
Florence/Graham	42,900	10,211	24.8
Cudahy	16,998	3,402	20.0
Bell Gardens	29,308	5,306	18.1
Maywood	16,996	2,144	12.6
Bell	21,836	2,466	11.3
Huntington Park	33,744	3,528	10.5
Walnut Park	8,925	760	8.5
South Gate	56,909	4,436	7.8
Area Total and Average %	227,616	32,253	14.2

Source: Los Angeles County Office of Community Development

Table II

Unemployment in the Southeast Central Area

City or Place	Civilian Labor Force	Unemployed Persons	Rate of Unemployment
Florence/Graham	14,378	1,900	13.2
Bell Gardens	11,206	1,130	10.1
Cudahy	6,544	577	8.8
Commerce	4,343	366	8.4
Huntington Park	17,422	1,433	8.2
Bell	10,738	853	7.9
Walnut Park	4,088	284	6.9
Maywood	7,662	510	6.7
South Gate	28,453	1,816	6.4
SCA Totals and Rate	104,834	8,869	8.5
L. A. Co. Totals and Rate	3,338,500	244,200	7.3
East L. A. Totals and Rate	38,565	3,250	8.4

Source: Los Angeles Office of Community Development

Major findings about the demographic characteristics of the SCA are as follows:

Population Increase

- Contrary to L. A. County projections, the population of the area is increasing rather than declining; the birth rate of the area is reported to be comparable to that of a developing nation.

Latino Majority

- The new majority, ranging from 60 to 70 percent of the total population in the SCA is Latino; these are persons who:

-- are new to the area, and in many cases, new to the country;
-- come from very diverse national backgrounds;
-- are primarily lower-middle income;
-- probably account for most of the area's high unemployment, underemployment, and AFDC recipiency rates; and
-- are members of young families with young children.

Elementary and Secondary School Enrollment Growth of Latino Youth

o Elementary and secondary schools in the SCA are experiencing enormous, and problematic increases in enrollment. Spanish-speaking enrollment in the schools runs between 65 and 85 percent.

Undocumented Aliens

o There is an acknowledgeably large undocumented alien cohort in the area.

Anglo Seniors

o Seniors, comprising about 20 percent of the population, form the largest Anglo cohort in the area; these are long-term residents and they experience a high incidence of fixed-income poverty.

Other Anglos; American Indians

o The remainder of the population, 10 to 20 percent, include working age Anglos, mostly older, and a discernable group of American Indians. There are certainly long-term residents in this group, but there are also reports of considerable Anglo transiency.

There is no unequivocal agreement on the causes and effects of the transition to occur in the area, but a number of related points can be made. The children of the area's present senior population appear to have moved out in large numbers, not in a pattern of "white flight" but in response to job changes and greener pastures. This out-migration left many housing units available; the incidence of absentee landlordism with consequent housing stock deterioriation appears to be on the rise. The political power structure of the several cities of the area remains solidly Anglo, although it is kept in power by a minority of the potential electorate. The crime rate of the area is

apparently not much different from what it was 10 years ago, but it is more visible and more feared. Youth crime and gang activity are topics of concern to local leaders and local newspapers.

The Area's Anglo History

Traditionally, the SCA was an area that grew and developed around its own industrial and agricultural base. The area was predominantly Anglo until the early 1960's and was settled first by midwesterners and later, in the 20's and 30's, by poorer whites from Appalachia and the Dust Bowl. The city structure which still characterizes the area was, at once, an expression of autonomy from the City of Los Angeles and an indication of the relative class and status of the residents.

Huntington Park was the early hub of the area: it was the center for fine shops and fine homes. The cities east of Huntington Park, Bell, Maywood, Cudahy, and Bell Gardens, developed as "bedroom communities" to Huntington Park; their relative distance from Huntington Park was a reflection of the relative affluence and status of their residents. For instance, Bell Gardens, furthest from Huntington Park and nicknamed "Billy Goat Gardens" in the 30's, still retains a reputation as a tough area inhabited by "poor whites." South Gate, as the name implies, was a portal to and from Long Beach and the harbor; its development, like that of the rest of the area, was around its own self-contained commercial base and was largely midwestern in tone.

The area was strongly Protestant in background. The denominations appear to have ranged from liberal to bedrock fundamentalist, depending on economic class and regional background. This religious spectrum is still a somewhat potent factor in the life of the area, at least among Anglo residents.*

*For example, two years ago a fundamentalist congregation in South Gate sold its church and moved -- minister and congregation -- to a mountaintop in Tennessee, there to await the end of the world. Revival meetings, in tents, are still held in the SCA. Even among traditionally Catholic newcomers to the area there appears to be an interest in Pentecostal religions.

These considerations of history and religion are of more than idle interest; both need to be accounted for in any educational planning and programming efforts in the area. Taken together, they point to two condiditons which still describe the attitudes of Anglo residents in the area:

o The area is compartmentalized.

Although it is reasonable to consider that the SCA is homogenous from a broad perspective, it is also compartmentalized. A number of informants describe the small city structure and the attendant class structures as ones which led to and still maintain a condition of provinciality.

o There is a strong current of negative attitudes toward post-secondary education.

For one reason or another, such as the work ethic or fundamentalism, the long-term Anglo residents of the area do not subscribe to the values of life-long learning. The attitude seems to be: get a basic education, get a job, and that's it for education.

Fragmentation in the SCA

The conjunction of the SCA's own traditions and the demographic transition presently underway produces a condition of cohesive fragmentation. The population of the area is fragmented along the dimensions of age and cultural background; it is further segmented by municipal boundaries. Scarcely any common ground exists between the older Anglo residents and the younger Latino newcomers. By the same token, the diversity of the cultural backgrounds of the Latino residents precludes any prima facie cohesion. The maintained character of the several cities in the area further contributes to the fragmentation.

Cohesion in the SCA

The cohesiveness of the area is supplied by a number of factors. The transition of population appears to be happening in the same way in all of the cities, and the problems are the same across the area.

The SCA remains tied together by its common turning away from the City of Los Angeles. But perhaps more than anything else, the area is bound together by its own anonymity and by the lack of attention accorded to it in comparison to neighboring areas, i.e., Watts and East Los Angeles.

It would appear that assumptions about the SCA which are based on the 1970 census are pervasive outside the area and contribute to a lack of attention to or interest in the area. For example, in four umbrella agencies contacted during the study, such planning information that did exist on the SCA -- either documents or staff member familiarity -- shared three characteristics: it assumed that the area hadn't changed much since 1970; it was unaware of the Latino influx; and it didn't accord much importance to the area. Similarly, the SCA has attracted scant interest from higher education institutions in Los Angeles.

There appeared to be no activity at UCLA, USC, or CSULA directed toward the SCA. Among the community colleges only Trade-Technical and Cerritos appear to have concentrated very much on the area. Trade-Technical's programming is done primarily through its Huntington Park Satellite Campus. Some outreach courses are offered by East Los Angeles College, but these do not constitute a discernable presence.

2. Needs

Area in General

Three general kinds of need were reported and observed: for improved communication, for better information, and for relevant educational programming. It is important to recognize that the needs occur in a larger context of economic stagnation and are, to a great extent, consequences of this condition.

Communication; Information; Educational Programs

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS
Anglos and Latinos	o Communication The single most consistent report about the SCA had to do with the gulf that separates Anglos and Latinos and with the consequences of this gulf. Fear, mistrust, and isolation were terms most frequently used to describe the climate of the area. And while the Anglos still retain political power in the area, this situation is sure to change in the next decade. Most respondents agreed that much needs to be done to break down the barrier of differences which separate not only Anglos from Latinos but also Latinos from Latinos of different cultural heritages. The issue appears to be more than language differences; central to the situation is the contiguity of diverse cultural backgrounds. As the semi-structured interviews proceeded, the notion of employing a Community Service programming strategy that would address the need for improved communications was added to the questions asked of those interviewed. The suggestion of events such as a multi-cultural festival brought overwhelmingly favorable response. Ideas for content inclusion and offers of assistance were proffered. The event concept appears to be one of considerable vitality.	Community Service Events
	o Information The fragmentation and isolation of the area appears to have engendered an information vacuum of two sorts: about educational opportunity and about human service availability.	
Latino Families in Particular	--Education: Simply put, the Southeast Central Area is remote from postsecondary educational resources. Cerritos College is recognized more often than LACCD colleges. On the basis of several indirect indications, it appears that the route of high school students and adult students to the community college system is short circuited by the kinds of counseling information available to them: the local adult schools and the UC and SCU systems are the more usual routes.	Educational Information

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS
Anglo Seniors and Latino Families	--Services: Although the area has many service providing institutions, service coordination appears weak and fragmented. A system for providing service information to potential clients and to service providers appears to be a substantial need.	Human Services Information
	o Programs The high incidence of immigration into the area, coupled with the high rate of unemployment and AFDC recipiency, suggests that two kinds of programs leading to job placement are needed:	
Unemployed Persons	--Skill assessment and job readiness training: The District could provide a valuable service to newly immigrated, diverse Latino populations and to those seeking entry-level employment, by developing bi-lingual approaches to the assessment of skills and job readiness training. Such programs need to be pilot tested initially and adapted both to specific client groups and for manpower needs. Assessment and job readiness training could be an adjunct to the educational information services which have been advocated.	Job-Related Programming: Skills Assessment, Job and Career Counseling and Preparation for Job Entry
Unemployed and Underemployed Persons	--Job training: Specific identification of jobs available in the area which require short-term training, or for which such training would be an advantage in competing for openings, would assist unemployed residents in securing employment. A CETA training program utilizing local community college resources would also be a viable approach to providing training. Outreach courses which provide the most commonly needed skills for upgrading job positions will be an increasing asset to the area.	Job Training Programs

3. Barriers

In considering what the needs of the area are and how to program for them, three interrelated structural issues need to be kept in mind: the lack of LACCD presence, intra-area provinciality, and the existing system of public transportation.

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS
	o LACCD Presence In general, respondents, even those who themselves attended one of the District's colleges, indicated that, as far as the Southeast Central Area was concerned, the Los Angeles Community Colleges might as well not exist. This is a question of "image" rather than of information or misinformation. East Los Angeles College is largely perceived as "for" East Los Angeles, and implicitly (in some cases quite explicitly) "for" Mexican Americans. Trade-Tech is thought of almost exclusively as a vocational training center, this despite the fact that its Huntington Park Satellite Campus offers very few vocational technical courses. And, except in the western part of the area -- Florence/Graham and Watts -- Southwest is principally unrecognized. In a number of conversations with respondents one could hear undertones of resentment and of feelings of disregard and neglect by the community colleges.	
High School Counselors; Other Counselors	As a corollary to the presence barrier, there were indications, as noted above, that educational counselors in the area do not place a very great priority on the opportunities available through local community colleges serving the area. No doubt the territorial problems between the LACCD and the L. A. Unified contributes to this disregard. Nevertheless, informational outreach to persons in counseling positions could be effective in creating more positive predisposition toward the community colleges.	Information to Educational Counselors
	o Provinciality Typically, if something is happening in Huntington Park, people in Bell Gardens or Cudahy or Watts or wherever won't feel it's happening for them -- and visa versa. Trade-Technical's Satellite Campus has done very well in its three years of existence; it opened with a 1400 seat enrollment last semester and seems to have made real progress in demonstrating its openess to the Latino population. Its impact beyond Huntington Park, however, is minimal.	

o Transportation

The intra-area transportation network (RTD) seems adequate, although it is nowhere near as comprehensive as the network in the Central area a few miles to the west. The issue of transportation, however, is one which was consistently identified by respondents as a substantial problem and a major barrier to intra-area activity.

Transportation is perhaps a major contributing factor to the perceived distance between the area and East Los Angeles College. The City of Commerce runs its own system and interfaces only poorly with RTD. Only one RTD line runs north-south through Commerce, connecting the Southeast Central Area and East Los Angeles College. Unless one lives on this route, public transportation to East Los Angeles College is lengthy, cumbersome, and, for all practical purposes, unfeasible. The lack of public transportation to ELAC is the most concrete barrier to regular college enrollment identified by this study.

4. Access Points

"Access points" are existing conditions and institutions which could provide assistance or facilitate entry to the area for district activities. In considering ways in which the LACCD might provide fuller services to the SCA, a number of access points were identified. The overarching access points for the SCA are identified and discussed below:

o Interest Among Residents

Virtually all of the interviewees of this study were themselves residents of the SCA. One of the most consistent and striking responses with which this study was met was that of enthusiasm at

the possibility of something being done for the area. The SCA has been disregarded by postsecondary education institutions, and the respondents to the study knew it. It seemed very clear to the investigator that any thoughtful and well coordinated effort to provide educational informational services would be well received and would meet with considerable local cooperation and assistance.

- The Media

A number of small newspapers serve the area, among them are the Daily Signal, the Huntington Park Bulletin, and the Eastside Sun. In keeping with the insularity of the area, these papers seem to be more widely read than the Times or the Examiner. Each of these papers has bilingual capacity. Spanish language radio stations presently broadcast Trade-Tech's satellite campus announcements. Additionally, Channel 34 (Spanish language TV) appears to be popular. In short, a media network does exist in the SCA; relations with it need to be developed.

- Trade-Technical Satellite Campus

As mentioned above, this satellite appears to have made inroads in the area. Operating within usual outreach center constraints, the satellite presents the Latino community with an institution which is accessible and conscious of the problems of this community. It has, in short, built trust. The satellite offers both a model for further development and a place to counsel potential students toward college enrollment.

East Los Angeles College lists a sizeable number of outreach locations in the SCA; few of them, however, are presently operating. The ELAC presence is therefore actually less significant than it first appears. Nevertheless, there are indications of ELAC interest in moving toward a satellite presence similar to that of Trade-Tech.

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS
Area in General and Extending to a Wider Los Angeles Audience	o Cultural Histories of the Area In its way, the SCA is an historically rich area. It is probably one of the more culturally diverse areas in the district. The histories, or roots of the Anglo as well as the recent Latino and earlier Spanish "settlers" could provide a way to establish some cohesion in the area and might suggest possible programming efforts. There is some evidence that several local histories were produced by area residents.	History of the Area and its Residents

B. The Latino Population

1. Background

The SCA appears to have become a "port of entry" for a growing number of young Latino families from diverse backgrounds. The issues with which they are confronted are the immediate and related ones of survival and acculturation.

At this point there is little social or political organization or representation to provide support for addressing these issues. A number of factors contribute to the lack of organization. The diversity of national background implies not only differences in mores, but in class. For example, many of the Cuban residents are professional persons who fled the Castro government; there is little basis for contact between such persons and less well educated persons with agricultural backgrounds. Even the presumed commonality of the Spanish language is something of a chimera; dialectical and class differences obviate language distinctions. The combined pressures of raising a family on a limited income, and trying to improve one's earning capacity constitute a second factor precluding organization: the expenditure of energy on such

matters breeds insularity. A third factor in this issue is that of the legal status of residents. By innuendo, one surmises that there are "a lot" of undocumented people in the area. Whether to protect one's self or one's friends or relatives, it may be thought best not to bring very much attention to bear on the area. Beyond these factors, one might also note that there have been few proactive efforts on the part of the area's Anglo leadership to encourage political participation or to develop a next generation of leadership from among the Latino residents.

2. Needs

Latino Newcomers

In general, the needs of this group are acculturation needs; they are needs for learning how to adapt to a new environment, how to learn what they need to learn within it, and how to achieve self-sufficiency, both individually and as a constituency, within it. A number of more specific suggestions about learning needs were garnered from interviews and these are listed and briefly described below:

Acculturation Program: Self-Sufficiency in a New Society

Latinos

o Basic Skills Improvement

o English

The Adult Schools have added more ESL classes, and this is their bailiwick; there is no reason, however, why other educational programs, such as those to address the needs specified below, could not have ESL training as a secondary focus.

Specific Courses, Mini-Courses, or Community Learning Program Content

o Training

Widespread unemployment and underemployment in the SCA point to a need for skills assessment, training and re-training, job readiness and job placement programs.

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS
	o Parent Education The problems of raising children in a bicultural, bilingual situation: what to expect; what to do; how to do it. This includes a concern for parents whose children may or may not have become involved with gang culture. o Health Education for the Family Resources; nutrition; family planning; health maintenance. o Consumer Education Includes not only how to shop but also how to relate to the human service system: options, availability, procedures, entitlements, and requirements. Includes conservation and utilization of resources as well as investment of individual and family resources (time, skills, money) and methods of generating greater incomes for families. o Legal Education How to buy a home; landlord-tenant relations; immigration information.* o Citizen Education How individuals and groups meet their needs through the political structure of the community and the country.	
Children of Latino Families	The Latino population of the SCA is one which could become a major consumer of educational services. Along with the needs of adults, one must consider those of the next generation,	Information to Elementary and Secondary Students

*There was an indication that disreputable store front operations in the area milk large sums of money from people to solve immigration problems which could be solved free or at little cost.

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS
	which will soon be facing its own postsecondary educational choices. There is a need to establish a reliable (trusted) information network to provide both groups with the basis for choices. A concerted effort will be required to implement such a network.	
Latinos	One further note on needs. If the recent proposals by President Carter to "solve the problem of illegal aliens" are enacted, the SCA is likely to experience the sudden appearance of large numbers of undocumented persons who will wish to establish residency and citizenship. Some kind of program of information and guidance will be required to facilitate this process.	Immigration Information

3. Barriers

The major barriers have already been discussed: the pressures of survival and acculturation; the lack of social, cultural, or political cohesion; and the experience of unfriendliness and, in some cases economic exploitation in housing and work situations. In consequence, efforts to address needs must proceed as cooperative ventures. More than usual attention should be paid to including Latino residents in planning, programming, staffing (paid or volunteer), and advisory board membership.

The three most significant access points at this time are schools, the media and individuals. While the PTA's appear to be either dormant or largely Anglo in composition, the community advisory boards are evidently where one might locate individuals with somewhat broad contacts back to the community. The role of the media has already been mentioned (see above, page 21); the likelihood of additional Spanish-language publication by the local newspapers makes them a potential source of expanded access. In the course of the study an effort was made to identify prominent members of the Latino population; contact was made with these

persons and they, in turn, supplied contacts with others with whom time precluded contact. The point is that a network of persons does exist and is identifiable; further, there is clear interest in the Community College District's providing more adequate services to the area. In addition to these major sources of access, it should be noted that a number of human service institutions and churches in the area recognize the difficult situation confronting the Latino population and have begun to provide trust-building service into it.

C. The Senior Population

Background of Anglo Seniors

1. Background

In contrast to the Latino population, the Anglo seniors are extensively organized both socially and politically. A large number of organizations exist for seniors in the area and these organizations themselves are loosely bound together under the only area-wide association observed in the study, the Five Cities Committee on Aging. The seniors are politically active and politically influential; at present they are the decisive factor in local electoral politics.

Recognition of the power and organization of seniors -- as well as of their very real needs -- is evident throughout the area. Congregate meals are served daily to seniors at three locations in the area (under three different auspices); at two of these locations the local adult school offers courses in conjunction with the meal. Both Huntington Park and South Gate have attractive, municipally built senior centers on the grounds of their large parks. Dial-a-ride services have been, and continue to be offered in some of the cities, despite the fact that this is a deficit program.

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS
	In general, the Anglo seniors are not happy that their communities have changed. The transition has produced resentments and confusion and has, in some cases, intensified the fears of seniors.	
Educational and Information Needs of Anglo Seniors	2. Needs Three types of educational/information needs are identified for this groups: o Consumer Education The suggestion in this direction included programs which could assist seniors to survive on a fixed income, provide suggestions for ways of maximizing their entitlements,* inform them of the expanding range of services available to them and provide strategies for and direct assistance in shopping for services. o Health Education The suggestion here is for a broad and progressive approach to health and health maintenance; nutrition education of a practical as well as a theoretical sort would be important program components. o Political Education Although Anglo seniors are a politically powerful group, there appears to be a real need to continue to develop leadership and to increase sensitivity to achieving ends through the political system. This will be especially important as their numbers and influence decline during the	Specific Courses, Mini-Courses, or Community Learning Program Content

*For example, the person who has $2,500 in his or her savings account as a burial fund is, by virtue of these savings, ineligible for SSI benefits; if this money were put in irrevocable trust, SSI eligibility could be established.

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS
	continuing period of transition in the area. It may also be a vehicle for enabling greater understanding between the senior and Latino groups.	
Needs of Anglo Seniors	In addition to these specifically educational programs, two other suggestions were repeatedly voiced concerning needs which might be met by the community colleges: health screening clinics and cross-cultural exchange. In the past two years a number of one or two-day health screening clinics have been held in the area. These clinics were variously sponsored and met with success ranging from abysmal to spectacular. Many respondents pointed out the importance and utility of such clinics and further indicated ways in which they could be more consistently useful to seniors. Among these suggestions were the following: clinics be held with greater frequency, include a broad range of diagnostic services, be better organized in terms of public information and transportation, and have a stronger informational component to allow clients to continue the suggested preventative or maintenance practice. The District or New Dimensions might consider some form of participation in this venture. The colleges could lend organizing assistance, might be able to enlist and coordinate student volunteers, and could take direct part in the provision of information. Such participation might well produce participants for the health education program suggested above.	Health Screening and Information
Needs of Anglo Seniors	The notion of a multi-cultural festival for the area has already been mentioned. Respondents thought that events which familiarized long-term Anglo residents with Latino newcomers might help to break down the resentment and fear of the seniors produced by the transition. Considerable doubt was expressed by some, however, that seniors would attend such events. It was emphasized that programs explicitly "for" this group would have to be included if senior attendance was to be very high. In this regard, specific mention was made of including health related programs for seniors -- perhaps even a screening clinic.*	Inclusion of Seniors in Multi-Cultural Events

*Several festivals are scheduled annually for SCA communities; joint planning and scheduling with community representatives is necessary.

AREA AND TARGET POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	DISCUSSION	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS

Barriers to Anglo Seniors

3. Barriers

It has already been mentioned that part of the "tradition" of this group is that education is for the young and is something that is over with after high school. In conversations with interviewees, this attitude was often described in terms of the difficulties of motivating older persons to enter into learning situations.

Related to this resistance barrier are others of a more structural nature which might be thought to obtain for all older persons. Basically, programming won't work unless it is in the daytime and convenient. Negotiating the RTD system is a real problem. Nevertheless, some of the adult schools in the area have been successful in establishing programs at the congregate meals sites.

It is the opinion of the investigator that as real as these barriers may be, they are not insuperable.* The needs of older residents are considerable and are the basis for meaningful program efforts. A strategy of involvement, similar to that suggested for the Latino group, would appear to be the way around the barriers; include older persons in planning, promotion, and programming activities; provide training for older persons to be involved as teachers, teachers aides, and peer counselors.

Access to Anglo Seniors

4. Access Points

There is no lack of access to older persons in the SCA. Senior organizations, churches, programs for seniors, the local newspapers, and the local political structure all channel information to this group. The seniors' own sense of their dwindling numbers and value to the community itself are important access points to them.

*A more explicit opinion is that many persons -- seniors as well as non-seniors -- assume the incompetence and lack of interest or motivation of seniors. A number of instances of this phenomenon were observed.

V. SUMMARY

This study illustrates that the Southeast Central Area has educational needs that can be served by the Los Angeles Community College District, of which the Office for New Dimensions would be an appropriate sponsor, coordinating programs with the three nearby colleges: East Los Angeles, Trade-Technical, and Southwest. The development and social/political cohesion in the area are to a great extent dependent on educational resources being provided.

Needs include more information, more coordination, more visible educational opportunity, and additional educational programming appropriate to the area. New Dimensions could provide stimulus to attracting greater attention to the area among service providers and planners, with the potential of additional services and greater coordination among services.

Central to an understanding of the area are its history and its current transition demographically. This change is full of contrasts which polarize groups of residents, and which has occurred too rapidly for general recognition outside the area or internal integration. The pattern of change is expected to continue.

There is little doubt that educational programs can benefit this area, and contribute to effecting both a more positive transition and community development. Such programs, however, will need to be adapted to local needs and demography, and require community participation in planning, scheduling, and publicizing. The potential cooperation of community leadership appears assured.

APPENDIX: INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The interviews on which so much of this report is based were with three kinds of actors:

- o Educators: Persons whose defined activities primarily involve the provision of instructional or informational services, either directly as teachers, indirectly as planners or administrators, or more indirectly as researchers.

- o Human Service Providers: Persons whose activities primarily involve the provision of social, economic, and other helping services, either as practitioners, administrators, or planners/researchers.

- o Other Careful Observers: Persons whose job depends on their understanding of trends and issues; these are persons in active political life and in clearly disignated planning and reporting roles.

Of the contacts and observations which yielded information for this study, 58 are considered interviews. Of these, 24 were with human service providers (41.4%), 20 with educators (34.5%), and 14 with other careful observers (24.1%).

Only 10 (17.2%) of the persons interviewed could be said to be "advocates" -- persons with a stated interest in and commitment to the advancement of a particular group or population segment. Five of these persons were advocates for seniors; five were advocates for Latinos.

A running cross-check of information supplied by advocates with that supplied by more impartial persons lent increasing focus to this investigation of needs and issues; it also supplied a way of determining the validity of reports.

Most of the persons interviewed worked in or lived in the SCA. Thirty-six (62.1%) of the interviewees worked directly or primarily in the area; 22 (37.9%) were in positions where knowledge of the SCA was an important component. At least 18 (31.0%) of those interviewed were residents of the area; the actual figure is certainly higher.

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